

consider favorably the gradual return and scheduled transfer of all PA tax funds collected by Israel on the unequivocal condition that there would be full U.S.-led monitoring to ensure that these funds will only be used for the economic and civil activities of the Palestinian community and to pre-

vent the use of these funds for terrorist activity of any kind.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Statement on Congressional Action on Election Reform Legislation *October 16, 2002*

The right to vote is the foundation of our democracy. I commend the House and Senate for passing legislation to improve our election process. The legislation is consistent with the principles outlined by the bipartisan Ford-Carter Commission that re-

spect the primacy of State and local governments and envision a limited but responsible role for the Federal Government. I look forward to signing these important election reforms into law.

Statement on Congressional Action on Defense Appropriations Legislation *October 16, 2002*

I commend the House and Senate for responding to my call to pass the defense appropriations bill. This defense budget will provide our troops with the best pay, the best equipment, and the best possible training. It also sends an important signal that

we are committed to defending freedom and defeating terror. The Congress acted responsibly in passing the defense appropriations bill first, and I look forward to signing it.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia *October 16, 2002*

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond

the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia is to continue in effect beyond October 21, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency